

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1164

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 11, Section 15, provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

There is no law requiring manufacturers, packers or distributors to indicate the nutritional value of food products on their labels.

This bill seeks to promote health consciousness among the public through proper labeling of nutritional contents in food products.

MANNY VILLAR

SENATE

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AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE NUTRITION LABELING FOR FOODS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “Nutrition Labeling Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure that consumers have access to accurate information as to the nutritional contents of food and food products to facilitate value comparison and promote a free market economy.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.

(a) The term “label” means any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to any consumer commodity or affixed to or appearing upon a package containing any consumer commodity.

(b) The term “package” means any container or wrapping in which any consumer commodity is enclosed for use in the delivery or display of that consumer commodity to retail purchasers but does not include -

(1) Shipping containers or wrapping used solely for the transportation of any consumer commodity in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, packers, or processors, or to wholesale or retail distributors thereof; or

(2) Shipping containers or outer wrappings used by retailers to ship and deliver any commodity to retail customers if such containers and wrappings bear no printed matter pertaining to any particular commodity.

(c) The term "food" means any material usually of plant or animal origin, containing or consisting of essential body nutrients, that must be taken in or assimilated by a person as nourishment to maintain life and growth.

SECTION 4. Requirements of labeling.

(a) The commodity shall bear a label specifying the identity of the commodity and the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor.

(b) The separate label statement of nutritional content shall appear in conspicuous and easily legible type in distinct contrast by typography, layout, color, embossing, or molding with other matter on the package.

(c) The label shall also contain the following:

(1) number of servings or other units of measure per container;

(2) the total number of calories derived from any source, and derived from the total fat.

(3) The amount of the following nutrients in each serving size or other unit of measurement of the food –

"Total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, total carbohydrates, complex carbohydrates, sugars, dietary fiber, and total protein"

(4) any vitamin, mineral, or other nutrient required to be placed on the label or

labeling of food if it is determined that such information will assist consumers in maintaining healthy dietary practices.

(d) If a food contains insignificant amounts, as determined by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, of all the nutrients required to be listed in the label or labeling of food, the requirements of such shall not apply to such food if the label, labeling, or advertising of such food does not make any claim with respect to the nutritive value of such food.

(e) No packaged consumer commodity shall be distributed or caused to be distributed in commerce unless it conforms with the regulations set by this Act and established by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

SECTION 5. Punishable Acts.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in the packaging or labeling of any consumer commodity for distribution in commerce, or for any person engaged in the distribution in commerce of any packaged or labeled consumer commodity, to distribute or to cause to be distributed in commerce any such commodity if such commodity is contained in a package, or if there is affixed to that commodity a label, which does not conform to the provisions of this Act and of regulations promulgated under the authority of this Act.

(b) This prohibition shall not apply to persons engaged in the business as wholesale or retail distributors of consumer commodities except to the extent that such persons (1) are engaged in the packaging or labeling of such commodities, or (2) prescribe or specify by any means the manner in which such commodities are packaged or labeled.

SECTION 6. Consumer Education.

The Secretary of the Department of Health with the Bureau of Food and Drugs shall carry out activities which educate consumers about-

- (1) the availability of nutrition information in the label or labeling of food, and
- (2) the importance of that information in maintaining healthy dietary practices.

SECTION 7. Separability clause – if any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause – Any law presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule of regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,